

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 AID-05 ORM-01 SR-02

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O P 041205Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0163

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1495

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5986

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: APRIL 4, THE 94TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 5947

1. SUMMARY. A BATTALION AND SUPPORTING ARTILLERY WITHDREW FROM THE EASTERN MOST POSITIONS ACROSS THE MEKONG FROM PHNOM PENH AND MOVED CLOSER TO A BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS NEARER THE RIVER. NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH THE 43RD BRIGADE STOPPED AN ENEMY ATTACK LAST NIGHT KILLING EIGHT AND SEIZING A LARGE NUMBER OF WEAPONS. FIVE SURVIVORS OF NEAK LUONG HAVE REACHED SVAY RIENG. THE KHMER AIR FORCE HAS EVACUATED ALL TROOPS, FAIMILIES AND REFUGEES FROM THE KONPONG SEILA ENCLAVE. THIRTY-ONE ROCKETS AND ONE 105MM HOWITZER ROUND HIT THE AIRFIELD AND VICINITY WITH NO REPORTED CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE. THREE ROCKETS EXPLODED IN PHNOM PENH, WOUNDING ONE PERSON. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG, A BATTALION AND

A 75MM HOWITZER SECTION AT BARRONG KHNAOR KAR, SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHTING LAST RAINY SEASON, HAVE LEFT THEIR POSITIONS AND RETREATED TOWARD THE RIVER NEARER THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 84TH BRIGADE. ATTACKS IN THE AREA OF THE NORTHERN DIKE, NORTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL, COST THE KC AT LEAST EIGHT KILLED ACCORDING TO THE 43RD BRIGADE, WHICH ALSO REPORTED SEIZING A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL AND CREW-SERVED WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. ONE 80TH BRIGADE UNIT ABANDONED ITS POSITION IN ACTION ELSEWHERE ON THE DIKE. A SUCCESSFUL 28TH BRIGADE ENGAGEMENT SAW 15 KC KILLED IN EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THE GAP PUNCHED IN NORTHERN DIKE DEFENSES LATE LAST WEEK.

3. THE KHMER AIR FORCE HAS FINISHED EVACUATING OVER 1,300 TROOPS AND MORE THAN 2,000 FAMILY MEMBERS AND REFUGEES FROM THE KOMPONG SEILA ENCLAVE ON ROUTE FOUR. THE EVACUATION TOOK ABOUT TWO WEEKS OF ACCELERATING EFFORTS BY KAF C-123'S. ITS SUCCESS IS DUE TO GOOD PLANNING AND COORDINATION AND, OF COURSE, TO A SHIFT OF KC EMPHASIS TO OTHER TARGETS. THE TROOPS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO PHNOM PENH'S DEFENSE.

4. FIVE SURVIVORS FROM NEAK LUONG REACHED SVAY RIENOL THIS MORNING.

5. ATTACKS BY FIRE AT POCHENTONG HAVE SHARPLY DEGRADED KAF'S TACTICAL PERFORMANCE (REFTEL). INCOMING FIRE HAS DESTROYED ONLY FIVE AIRCRAFT AND SEVERELY DAMAGED ONLY THREE, BUT FORTY CRAFT HAVE TAKEN REPAIRABLE SHRAPNEL HITS. THE INCOMING FIRE HAS CAUSED AN ESTIMATED 30 PERCENT DEGRADATION IN KAF MAINTENANCE DUE TO LOSS OF TIME SPENT RUNNING FOR BUNKERS. AS A RESULT OF MAINTENANCE BACKLOGS TACTICAL AIR SORTIES ARE DOWN 35 PERCENT THIS PAST WEEK. T-28 FIGHTER-BOMBERS ARE FLYING FEWER THAN 25 SORTIES PER DAY, OFTEN WITH AS FEW AS SIX OPERATIONAL AIRPLANES.

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6. THIRTY-ONE ROCKETS AND ONE 105MM HOWITZER ROUND HIT THE AIRFIELD AND VICINITY OVER THE PAST 24 HOURS WITH NO REPORTED DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES. THREE ROCKETS IN PHNOM PENH WOUNDED ONE PERSON. DEAN

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Message Attributes

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